

INFORMATION REPORT
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Border Fortifications; Coastal Defenses

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1. During the last week of October 1950 a total of 6,800 men were recruited into the Army. Almost 2,000 of these men were called from the province of Shkoder.
2. Since 10 November 1950 the Army has been actively engaged in digging trenches and tank defenses along the north and northeastern border, especially in the Shkoder area from Han i Hotit to Rapshe. In addition, trenches are being prepared in the immediate region around Shkoder from Koplik to Va i Dejes via Bajraku i Drishtit and Bardhaj. Maneuvers are also being held in this area. About 10 November 1950 army units along the Buene River from Pulaaj to Obot were reinforced by an infantry regiment. This entire sector has been declared a military zone and is directly under the command of a Soviet general whose headquarters are at Oblike.
3. The Coastal Defense Command has 4,500 men at its disposal. The coastal defense area is divided into five sectors: Pulaaj, Shengjin, Durres, Saseno and Sarande. A radio transmitter is located in each of these places. A new radio station was to be put into operation in Durres on 29 November 1950. It was to be serviced by only one Albanian technician, Stefan Pepaliku*, while the rest of the personnel were to be Soviets.
4. Coastal batteries are located as follows: a heavy battery at Mal i Durresit; 2 heavy batteries at Shkamb i Kavajes; 70 to 80 guns of various types at Saseno; an unspecified number of heavy batteries with a range of ten miles at Karaburun and Difjan (sic-possibly Marovjan); and a battery of long range artillery at Karavasta and Sarande.
5. The Shkamb i Kavajes area has been declared a military zone and the forbidden strip extends 13 kilometers from the coast. The entire coast from Pulaaj to Sarande is guarded by posts (of 10 to 15 men each) which communicate with each other and various zone centers by means of radio and telephone. Small motorboats and sailboats with auxiliary motors, armed with machine guns and mortars, patrol the coast day and night as far out as 10 kilometers and as far south as the Strait of Corfu. One of the "flagships" of this guard fleet is reported to be the 750-ton motorized sailing vessel MUHO ULQINAKU.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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[REDACTED] Other information, dated November 1950, probably more correctly reports this individual's name as Merliku.

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